



## COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

### DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**For immediate release**  
Nov. 18, 2005

Contact: Hollie Cammarasana (804) 726-7887

### ***Nominees sought for Governor's Volunteer Caregiver Recognition Awards***

**Richmond** – The Virginia Council on the Status of Women is seeking nominees from across the state for the first Governor's Volunteer Caregiver Recognition Awards, to be presented on Monday, Jan. 9, 2006 by Governor Mark Warner in Richmond.

The awards will honor the thousands of men and women who lovingly and voluntarily take care of family and friends day after day, and will heighten public awareness of their contributions. Awards will be made to a volunteer caregiver in each of eight regions: Northern Virginia, Shenandoah Valley, Central Virginia, Metro Richmond, Tidewater, Southside, Roanoke/New River Valley, and Far Southwest.

The Council on the Status of Women is working with the Virginia Department for the Aging, Department of Social Services, directors of area agencies on aging, and the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to inform the public about the new awards and encourage nominations.

Nominees must provide care on a volunteer basis, not job-related. Nominations may be made by an individual or an organization. Self-nominations are welcome.

Additional information and nomination forms are available online at:  
[http://www.dss.virginia.gov/community/council\\_women/caregiver.html](http://www.dss.virginia.gov/community/council_women/caregiver.html) and by mail by calling (800) 777-8293 or e-mailing [council.women@dss.virginia.gov](mailto:council.women@dss.virginia.gov).

Nominations must be postmarked or received by fax, mail or e-mail by 5 p.m. Dec. 5. The mailing address is:

Virginia Department of Social Services  
Attention: Council on the Status of Women  
7 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Richmond, VA 23219  
The fax number is (804) 726-7947.  
The email address is [council.women@dss.virginia.gov](mailto:council.women@dss.virginia.gov)

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Nationally, there are an estimated 44.4 million volunteer caregivers, 60 percent of whom are women. They care for aging parents, siblings with a disability, spouses, children, grandchildren, neighbors, and friends. Many take on this difficult responsibility in a crisis situation, out of a sense of responsibility to their family or a person in need.

The typical volunteer caregiver has a paid job and also spends more than 20 hours a week providing unpaid care. Many caregivers say that their responsibilities take a physical, emotional, and financial toll, especially those who give up their jobs and change their personal roles to be available at all times. The need for caregivers in Virginia is expected to increase over the next 25 years as the population ages.

The Virginia Council on the Status of Women consists of 19 members from across the state, appointed by the Governor. As an advisory group, the Council is tasked with identifying ways in which women can reach their potential and make their full contribution to society as wage earners and citizens. The Council launched the Volunteer Caregiver Recognition Program in October, 2005.

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